

WSDOT MEETINGS

I. INTRODUCTION

These meetings provide opportunities for staff from all agencies to review and discuss proposed surface transportation projects that impact Waters of the U. S./Waters of the State and associated sensitive species, including threatened and endangered species.

II. MEETINGS

- A. Biennial Project Review Meeting: These meetings are held to discuss, in general terms, potential environmental impacts (including all wetland impacts) of proposed projects; and to provide an opportunity for resource agencies to supply information on affected resources that may influence a project's schedule or budget. These meetings are held when project scoping and preliminary project budgets are being developed. The meetings are conducted by each WSDOT region, and attended by WSDOT staff from the Service Center Environmental Affairs Office, WSDOT region project development offices, and state, federal, and local resource and regulatory agency staff.
- B. Design Alternatives meeting: These meetings are held as needed to discuss specific projects. Need is based on the scope of the project and the magnitude and type of environmental impact.
- C. Monthly Project Review Meeting: These meetings are held monthly by the COE, Ecology, FHWA, and WSDOT for the purpose of considering information pertinent to WSDOT permit applications in process and obtaining information on possible future permits. The meetings are attended by COE regulatory staff, WSDOT Service Center Environmental Affairs Office staff, and WSDOT staff from regions with projects under consideration. Signatory agencies will be provided the monthly agendas and minutes. At this meeting, specific information related to permit requirements, design alternatives, and permit progress are discussed. All WSDOT projects with potential COE jurisdiction are considered.
- D. Permit Pre-Application Meeting: These meetings are held to discuss proposed work and alternatives, and to review preliminary mitigation plan development and submittal of information needed by the COE and other agencies to make permit decisions. These meetings may be called by the COE, WSDOT, WDFW, or Ecology, depending on project magnitude or type of permit. Other agencies are invited to participate, as appropriate.

- E. Preconstruction Conference: These meetings are held as needed to discuss construction techniques for wetland creation, restoration, or enhancement, for individual projects. The need for such a meeting depends upon the degree of difficulty anticipated in the construction of a wetland, the use of unconventional construction techniques, or contractor unfamiliarity with constructing wetlands. This meeting is primarily held to ensure that the contractor understands the contract requirements related to wetland mitigation.
- F. 75% of Construction Conference: These meetings are held on selective individual construction projects, to evaluate the construction techniques the contractor is using for wetland creation, restoration, or enhancement. The need for such a meeting depends upon the degree of difficulty anticipated in the construction of a wetland, the use of unconventional construction techniques, or contractor unfamiliarity with constructing wetlands. The purpose of the meeting is to ensure that the contractor is in compliance with the wetland mitigation contract requirements. Any deficiencies observed will be resolved prior to construction completion.
- G. Mitigation Monitoring: This meeting is held once a year to discuss WSDOT annual wetland monitoring report. The purpose is to discuss monitoring results, recommendations, and findings. The need for such a meeting is to nurture the advancement in mitigation techniques. The meetings are conducted by WSDOT biology section staff from the Service Center Environmental Affairs Office and attended by WSDOT landscape architects, and state, federal, and local resource and regulatory agency staff that required mitigation as part of their permit requirements.